



**Kootenai National Forest**  
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# News Release

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## Kootenai National Forest Fire Update for August 26

**LIBBY, Mont. August 26, 2015 4:30 p.m.** – Heavy smoke continues to be a double edged sword for fire suppression on the Kootenai National Forest. On the one hand, thick smoke helps to suppress fire activity by reducing the amount of available oxygen and stifling wind. On the other hand, it has reduced the air quality in some parts of Lincoln and Sanders County to unhealthy levels.

With bow season beginning on September 5, hunters and other recreationists are encouraged to fill out the information cards available at trail head locations. If further closures are implemented, these cards would be used to determine whether members of the public are camped in an area that has become unsafe so that they can be notified by backcountry rangers. Stage II Fire Restrictions are still in effect as well, so building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire is still prohibited.

Following is a summary of the ten current fire-related closure orders on the Kootenai National Forest:

**Closure:** Ant Flat Historic Site Closure (D3-064-S-15)

**Location:** Rexford/Fortine Ranger District

**Summary:** For public safety, the National Forest system lands, roads, trails, and recreation sites in the vicinity of the Ant Flat Historic Site are closed to public use and travel due to fire camp. Ant Flat is the camp location for Pearson's Type II Team. This team is managing the Northeast Kootenai Complex which includes the Marston, Barnaby, and Sunday Fires.

**Closure:** Sinclair Creek Trail #88 Closure (D3-065-S-15)

**Location:** Rexford/Fortine Ranger District

**Summary:** For public safety, National Forest system trail #88 is closed to public use and travel. This trail is located northeast of Eureka. The trailhead begins on Forest Road 7077 and it has been closed because of its proximity to the Barnaby Fire.

**Closure:** Barnaby Fire Closure (D3-066-S-15)

**Location:** Rexford/Fortine Ranger District

**Summary:** For public safety, the National Forest system lands, roads, trails, and recreation sites in proximity to the Barnaby Fire are closed to public use. This includes the following lands, roads, trails, and recreation sites:

- North of and including NFS Krinklehorn Trail #358 and Krinklehorn/Locke Trail #96
- West of and including NFS Whitefish Divide Trail #26
- East and north of Deep Divide Road #7066
- South of Stoken Road #7061
- North and west of and including Grave Creek/Trail Creek Road #114 past the gate at Birch Creek Recreation Site
- East, north, and west of Foothills Road #756
- North of and including Road #7077
- East of Road #1001

Burma Road #1001, Foothills Road #756, and Deep Divided Road #7066 are NFS roads that will remain open but serve as perimeters to the closure. Grave Creek/Trail Creek Road #114 is restricted past the gate at Birch Creek Recreation Site to the boundary with the Flathead Forest.

**Closure:** Marston Fire Closure (D3-067-S-15)

**Location:** Rexford/Fortine Ranger District

**Summary:** For public safety, the National Forest system lands, roads, trails, and recreation site in the vicinity of the Marston Fire are closed to public use and travel due to current fire activity. This includes the following areas:

- North of US Hwy 93, east of Deep Divide Road #7066, east and south of Jaeger Mine Road #368, and south of Road #7065, Krinklehorn Trail #358, Krinklehorn/Locke Trail #96, and Whitefish Divide Trail #26.
- US Hwy 93, Deep Divide Road #7066, Road #7065, Krinklehorn Train #358, Krinklehorn/Locke Trail #96, Whitefish Divide Trail #26 and the portion of the Jaeger Mine Road to the west of its junction with Road #7066 remain open but serve as perimeter to the closure.
- Marston Road #900 within the Stillwater State Forest is restricted north of the barricade.

**Closure:** Scotchman Peak and Ross Creek Closure (D4 -053-S-15)

**Location:** Troy Ranger District

**Summary:** For public safety, the National Forest system lands and trails in the vicinity of the Scotchman Peak Recommended Wilderness Area and Ross Creek area are closed to public use and travel due to current fire activity. This includes Ross Creek Trail #142, South Fork Trail #321, and Dry Creek Trail #1021.

**Closure:** Tepee Mountain Closure (D4-054-S-15)

**Location:** Troy Ranger District

**Summary:** For public safety, National Forest system lands and trails in the vicinity of Tepee Mountain are closed to public use and travel due to current fire activity. This includes Pine/Newton Trail #208, Tepee Mountain Trail #710, and Wampoo/Newton Trail #209, as well as the following roads:

- Tepee Creek Road #1999

- Teepee Creek A Spur #1999A
- Teepee Mountain Road #2351
- Teepee Mountain D Spur #3251D
- Teepee Ferrel Road #2356
- Ferrel Creek Loop Road #2371
- Ferrel Creek Loop B #2371B
- Fourth of July Road #394
- High Peak Road #3942
- High Peak A Spur #3942A
- Road #3944
- July Flat Road #3945
- July Flat A Spur #3945A
- July Flat B Spur #3945B
- Road #3946
- Fourth of July B Spur #394B
- Wampoo Creek Road #5992
- Abe Lincoln Face Road #5996
- Abe Lincoln Face A Spur #5996A
- Abe Lincoln Face C Spur #5996C
- Road #5997
- Road #5997A
- Teepee Face #6121
- Teepee Face A Spur #6121A
- Teepee Face B Spur #6121B

**Closure:** Klatawa Fire Closure (D5-055-S-15)

**Location:** Libby Ranger District

**Summary:** The Klatawa Fire area is closed to all public travel for public safety. This includes the following:

- Flower Creek Trailhead west on Flower Creek Trail #137 to Sugarloaf Mountain; then south on the district boundary to Snowshoe Peak; then north and east along the ridge through Bockman Peak; then north and to Deep Creek; then north along the Inventoried Roadless Boundary to Granite Creek Trailhead; then north along the Inventoried Roadless Boundary to Flower Creek Trailhead.
- NFS Trails #135, #136, and #137 are closed at the trailhead.

**Closure:** Scotchman Peak and Berray Mountain Lookout Closure (D7-047-S-15)

**Location:** Trout Creek Ranger District

**Summary:** For public safety, Nation Forest system lands, roads, and trails in the vicinity of the Scotchman Peak Recommended Wilderness Area and Berray Mountain Lookout are closed to public use and travel due to current fire activity. This includes the following:

- Dry Creek Road #1118
- Pillick Flat Road #2702
- Goat Rocks Road #2289
- Berray Mountain Road #2272

- Jacks Gulch Road #430 above private land
- Dry Creek Trail #1020
- Hamilton Gulch Trail #1019
- Star Gulch Trail #1016
- Napoleon Gulch Trail #1035
- Pillick Ridge Trail #997
- Big Eddy Trail #998
- Berray Mountain Trail #967
- Berray Mountain West Trail #1028
- Dad Peak Trail #987
- Devils Club Trail #996

**Closure:** Grizzly Fire Complex Closure (D7-048-S-15)

**Location:** Trout Creek Ranger District

**Summary:** The Grizzly Fire Complex area is closed to all public travel for public safety. This includes the following:

- Areas south of Bottle Point to Martin Creek Road #151 east to a point in Section 25, T25N, R33W; then south east to a point in Section 27, T24N, R32W; then south to Woodchuck Peak; then south east to the intersection of Road 2222 and 2257 in Section 29, T24N, R32W; then south west to the intersections of Road 152 and 2262 in Section 11, T22N, R32W; then west to a point in Section 8, T22N, R32W on the Idaho/Montana boundary; then north on the Idaho/Montana boundary to Bottle Point.
- Marten Creek FSR 151 FSR are closed past private property in Section 25 west to the Idaho/Montana boundary
- Minton Peak Road FSR 322 are closed past private property in Section 17, T24N, R32W west to the Idaho/Montana boundary
- Trout Creek FSR 214 are closed past private property in Section 27, T24N, R32W west
- Sex Peak FSR 2222 are closed past its junction with FSR 152
- NFS Trails 799, 785, 784, 777, 795, 774, 779, 772, and 763 south of the junction with 766 are closed
- Minton Peak and Sex peak cabin rentals are closed

**Closure:** Ross Creek Cedars Closure (D7-049-S-15)

**Location:** Trout Creek Ranger District

**Summary:** For public safety, National Forest system lands, roads, and trails in the vicinity of Ross Creek Cedars are closed to public use and travel due to current fire activity. This includes the following:

- Little Spar Lake Trail #143
- Mt. Vernon/Spar Peak Trail #513
- Spar Peak Trail #142
- Stanly Creek Road #4626
- South Face Mt. Vernon Road #4628
- Bad Medicine Campground Road #8012
- Bad Medicine Campground Loop 2 #14704A
- Bad Medicine Campground

Updates will be released as more information becomes available.

To register for the Lincoln County Emergency Alert system, visit:

<http://lincolncountymt.us/>

**Kootenai Interagency Dispatch Website**

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dc/mtkdc/INDEX.HTM>

**InciWeb – Wildfire Information**

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/27/>

**Kootenai National Forest**

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai/>

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